

Learning by Ear 2010**Theme: Illiteracy and education****“A GIRL FINISHING SCHOOL”****Episode 10:** “*Success at last*”**Author:** Frédéric GAKPARA**Editor:** Yann Durand**Translator:** Anne Thomas**Characters:**

Papa Wali (*55-year-old father of four – Elinam, Latifa, Souleyman and Inès. He runs a metal workshop but he is illiterate and his business has not been doing well recently because of a lack of modern equipment and bad financial management and marketing. He is currently at home because of eye problems.*)

Mamoua (*39 years old, Papa Wali’s wife and the mother of their four children. She is an illiterate housewife and she runs a small maize porridge business in front of her house.*)

Elinam (*23 years old, Papa Wali and Mamoua's son, Latifa's elder brother. Qualified civil engineer. He decides to come back to his parents' small town to restructure and manage his father's workshop. His decision is mainly motivated by his love for Zakia.*)

Latifa (*19 years old, Papa Wali and Mamoua’s daughter. She is doing an internship at an ophthalmology clinic after qualifying as a medical assistant. She has been living with her older brother in the big city for over three years*)

Zakia (24 years old, a very emancipated girl, Latifa's best friend. She is the marketing director at her tourist agency and still works in the small town she and Latifa are from.)

Epiphane (Papa Wali's 22-year-old employee. He is very intelligent. He has just given the workshop a makeover and is developing, thanks to his literacy classes and a further training course in metalworking.)

INTRO

Hello and welcome to Learning by Ear for the tenth and last episode of our series "A Girl Finishing School" about illiteracy and education.

After completing his studies in the capital, Elinam has been back at home with his parents for almost four months now. His heart has taken root in this small city where Zakia, the love of his life, lives. To make himself useful, he decides to take over his father's workshop and restructure it. He no longer wants to wait for a job and prefers to use his knowledge in the family business.

Mamoua is very satisfied with her son, even though his decision to live with the emancipated Zakia seems wrong to her.

Her daughter Latifa has also announced her return. She's finished her internship at the ophthalmology clinic and has some big news to announce to her family.

*It's almost the end of the day and Elinam and Epiphane are trying to finish some extension work on Papa Wali's workshop with half a dozen builders. This is the tenth episode: "**Success at last!**"*

Scene 1, AT PAPA WALI'S WORKSHOP

Elinam and Epiphane

1. **ATMO :** **BUILDING SITE NOISE, MODERATE TRAFFIC**
2. **Elinam:** **(In a loud voice so the builders can hear)** Be careful with the sign please! Put it over there and we'll put it up tomorrow. **(Shouting)** Epiphane!
3. **Epiphane:** Yes, big brother Elinam?
4. **Elinam:** Can you bring me the register please?
5. **SFX:** **NOISE OF HURRIED STEPS (EPIPHANE)**
6. **Epiphane:** Here it is!
7. **Elinam:** Thank you! **(Leafing through)**
8. **SFX:** **SOUND OF SHEETS OF PAPER**
9. **Elinam:** Can you sit down a moment, please?
10. **Epiphane:** Yes...
11. **SFX:** **PULLING CHAIR, SITTING DOWN (RUSTLE OF CLOTHES)**

12. **Elinam:** (After some time) We have to have affordable prices compared to our competition.
13. **Epiphane:** I've already compared the prices, Elinam. We're the cheapest!
14. **Elinam:** But we can do even better. Especially if we want to market ourselves as a new company offering advantages to those with fewer means.
15. **Epiphane:** So we have to save on our materials. We should buy wholesale so that they are cheaper for us.
16. **Elinam:** Why not? That's a good idea! And if we develop loyal relationships with our suppliers we can get better deals.
17. **Epiphane:** That's true!
18. **Elinam:** You'll be a technical director from now on.
19. **Epiphane:** What's a technical director?
20. **Elinam:** All the materials will be your responsibility. Supplies, monitoring of machines and workers, taking orders, implementing and delivering them...
21. **Epiphane:** That's a lot of responsibility!

22. **Elinam:** Indeed, and you'll have to be very careful.
23. **Epiphane:** And what will **you** be?
24. **Elinam:** Managing director. I'll be responsible for market research, customer service, financial management, marketing and for making sure the company grows and diversifies. Gradually, we can even rent out equipment for public works or maybe even mend the roads and bridges ourselves.
25. **Epiphane:** I don't really understand, big brother!
26. **Elinam:** Don't worry. What's important is that you always want to learn, Epiphane. That's your strength. You pick everything up very quickly!
27. **Epiphane:** Thank you!
28. **Elinam:** I think I'll appeal to some volunteers for an opening event
29. **Epiphane:** I've got a lot of friends who are interested. You can count on me, big brother.
30. **Elinam:** And no more "big brother", Epiphane. We have to be more formal with each other, we're a big firm now. You are the technical director and I'm the managing director.

31. **Epiphane:** (jokingly) OK, Managing Director!
(both laugh)
32. **Elinam:** Oh, I didn't see the time! Can you check up on the workers please? I have to go and get Zakia.
33. **Epiphane:** (smiling) OK, Managing Director! See you tomorrow!
34. **SFX ATMO:** SOUND OF STEPS GOING AWAY OUTSIDE TWO PEOPLE (ELINAM, EPIPHANE)
35. **SFX ATMO:** SOUND OF A MOTORBIKE STARTING UP

MUSIC

36. **NARRATOR:** *Some days later, the workshop is ready for the official opening. To thank Zakia for her help, Elinam has decided to introduce her formally to his parents this evening. Mamoua and Papa Wali are sat next to each other but have different views about their visitor.*

Scene 2, AT PAPA WALI'S HOME

Elinam, Zakia, Mamoua and Papa Wali

37. **ATMO:** SOUNDS OF THE NIGHT – CRICKETS (FROM THE DISTANCE)

38. **Elinam:** **(in a solemn tone of voice)** My dear parents, I want to introduce Zakia to you although she's hardly a stranger in this house. She has been a good friend to us all these years. Even when Latifa and I weren't here, she would call us to see how we were and she also brought Dad new customers.
39. **Papa Wali:** **(interrupting)** That's true! It's rare to meet someone as nice as Zakia. Without her, I might not be here today.
40. **Mamoua:** Papa Wali! Will you let your son speak?
41. **Elinam:** **(Silence)** I didn't know about Dad's state of health. Nor did Zakia but had she known, she would have told us straightaway. I came back for her. I wanted to clear up a few questions about us and then go back to the city. But everything kept me here: Dad's health, Mom's problems with the bank, Souleyman' future, the renovation of the workshop and – last but not least, my love for Zakia.
42. **Mamoua:** **(nastily?)** What do you mean by your love for Zakia?
43. **Elinam:** In the first place, I decided to come back for Zakia. If Dad's workshop has survived it's because Zakia was here...
44. **Papa Wali:** It's true! He's right, Mamoua.

45. **Elinam:** (hesitantly) I also have to admit that the money I told you I had sent for Latifa's school fees was from Zakia!
46. **Papa Wali:** (shocked) What? What are you telling us now, my son? Zakia paid Latifa's school fees?
47. **Elinam:** Of course, Dad! I didn't have a penny at the time. It would have been a bad mistake to have taken Latifa out of school. Now, she's a talented nurse.
48. **Papa Wali:** Zakia! Come here, my girl! Let me kiss you!
49. **SFX ATMO:** **SOUND OF CHAIR – SOUND OF STEPS, PAPA WALLI KISSING ZAKIA**
50. **Elinam:** Zakia was always present.
51. **Mamoua:** (still with some reluctance) Did she do it so she could win over your heart?
52. **Elinam:** No, Mom. I'm the one who had to fight to win over hers! And if I hadn't, I would have gone back a long time ago!
53. **Zakia:** If you don't mind, I'm embarrassed that we're getting held back by these material matters. I've liked Elinam ever since we were at school together, but years later, I wasn't dreaming about him at all. I was happy to have his sister's love.

54. **Papa Wali:** Don't worry my girl. You have our blessing. Nothing can stop your union.
55. **Mamoua:** Elinam, your father and I will think about this and give you our answer.
56. **Papa Wali:** You don't think about things like this Mamoua – just give them your blessing.
57. **Elinam:** Thank you, Dad. Mom, I promise Zakia won't let you down. She loves me as much as you do. I have to return the happiness she deserves so much.
58. **Papa Wali:** And you'll manage my son! What's important is that you don't make the same mistakes as your father. You're well-educated and you'll help your children make the right education choices.
59. **Elinam:** Thank you, Dad!
60. **Papa Wali:** What do your parents say about it, my girl?
61. **Zakia:** They say what's good for us is good for them.
62. **Papa Wali:** How about celebrating all this with a good meal?
63. **Mamoua:** Oh, I get it. He means he's hungry!
64. **Elinam:** Me too, Mom!

65. **Mamoua:** (Struggles to get up) OK, I'm going to cook something but it will take some time.
66. **Zakia:** Wait mother... I'll give you a hand.
67. **SFX ATMO:** **SOUND OF CHAIRS AND THE STEPS OF THE TWO WOMEN LEAVING THE ROOM**
68. **Zakia:** (As she leaves, laughing) And if I have to, I'll give you a call too, gentlemen!
69. **Papa Wali:** Congratulations, my son! Let your home be blessed!
70. **Elinam:** Thank you Dad. Thank you very much for backing me up.
71. **SFX ATMO:** **NOISE IN THE KITCHEN – POTS AND PANS – RUNNING WATER (IN THE DISTANCE)**
72. **NARRATOR:** *Mamoua has now been convinced of the fact that her future daughter-in-law can also cook and the dinner goes off well. The next day Latifa arrives early so as not to miss the official opening of her brother's firm. After the reception, Zakia suggests they have lunch on the mountain to talk about the old days. Elinam also comes, of course.*

Scene 3, AT THE RESTAURANT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Latifa, Elinam and Zakia

73. **SFX ATMO:** **OPEN-AIR RESTAURANT – SOUND OF THE WIND – BIRDS – UNCLEAR VOICES – SOUND OF CUTLERY**
74. **Latifa:** You mean you're telling me that Mom accepted your relationship?
75. **Elinam:** You know that Zakia has a lot going for her!
76. **Latifa:** Yeah, you mean that Mom accepts anything and anyone when you're involved!
77. **Zakia:** Well, it wasn't easy. That's for sure!
78. **Latifa:** Weren't you scared?
79. **Zakia:** I had prepared myself. I was ready for anything.
Elinam and I know what we want. That's what matters!
80. **Latifa:** Well, congratulations!
81. **Zakia:** Thank you! And now it's your turn to tell us your news!

82. **Latifa:** (**Taking her time and clearing her throat**) OK! Our head doctor has referred Dad's case to a group of surgeons who travel around the country and they say they can operate on him. They think he's got a good chance of partially recovering his sight.
83. **Zakia:** Wow, that's really good news! Carry on, Latifa, please!
84. **Latifa:** OK! This is about me now. (**Proudly**) I've been accepted to do a voluntary traineeship with the same surgical team and to travel around the world with them!
85. **Elinam:** (**enthusiastically**) Wow! Amazing! That's great! So there is light at the end of the tunnel!
86. **Zakia:** (**With tears in her eyes**) Well, that's great news for you!
87. **Elinam:** Come here, little sister. Let me give you a hug! Thanks for believing in yourself till the end!
88. **SFX:** **HUGGING (SIBLINGS)**
89. **Latifa:** I'm the one who should be saying thank you. Without you two, I would never have got this far.
90. **Elinam:** Let me kiss you as well, Zakia! This is **your** victory!
91. **Zakia:** No, Elinam. It's the victory of **education!**

OUTRO

Elinam, Zakia and Latifa all hug each other with tears in their eyes. They look back on their respective pasts, the difficulties they have had on the way. The doubts, the fears, the sadness, the solitude, anger, love... But above all, there prevails a feeling of liberty – the feeling of having their destinies under their own control thanks to the knowledge that they first acquired at school – reading and writing.

And this was the last episode of our Learning by Ear series "A Girl Finishing School" about illiteracy and education written by Frédéric Gakpara.

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With the voices of:

Technical assistance:

Production:

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Thanks for your loyalty and all the best for the future!

END OF 10th EPISODE